

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-02
/088 W

-----010594 220710Z /14

R 211441Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4606
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR, US, EAIR, PINS
SUBJECT: TASS ATTACK ON US ANTI-HIJACKING POLICY

REF: A. MOSCOW 5659, B. STATE 80057, C. MOSCOW 2781

1. PRAVDA JULY 19 ARTICLE "SHELTERING THE BANDITS" IS THE FIRST SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE BRAZINSKAS CASE SEEN BY THE EMBASSY SINCE MARCH 23 PRAVDA ARTICLE, ALSO PUBLISHED IN VOZDUZHNYI TRANSPORT (REF. A) ARTICLE STATES THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE SEVEN WESTERN NATIONS IN BONN ON AIR TERRORISM, THE NON-US PARTICIPANTS SHOULD STOP ALL FLIGHTS BY THEIR AIRCRAFT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND REFUSE US FLIGHTS PERMISSION TO LAND IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, SINCE THE US IS HARBORING THE BRAZINSKAS, "WHO HIJACKED A SOVIET AIRLINER, COMMITTING, IN THE PROCESS, A TERRORIST ACT." ARTICLE CONCLUDES
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WITH A SALLY AGAINST US POLICY, STATING THAT IN HARBORING THE BRAZINSKAS, THE US IS ACTING CONTRARY TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN BONN.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TASS ARTICLE TAKES STANDARD SOVIET LINE ON THE "HYPOCRISY" OF US ANTI-HIJACKING POLICY, ITS TREATMENT IS FAR Milder THAN MARCH 23 TASS ARTICLE (REF.A)

IT REFRAINS FROM MISREPRESENTING DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKES-
MAN STATEMENTS, INVENTING STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF-
FICIALS, AND FROM GENERALIZING FROM ITS INTERPRETATION
OF BRAZINSKAS CASE TO CONCLUSION THAT US DOES NOT CON-
SIDER HIJACKING OF SOVIET PLANE TO BE A TERRORIST ACT.

EMBASSY CAN EXPLAIN APPEARANCE OF ARTICLE AFTER FOUR
MONTH LAPSE ONLY IN TERMS OF THE SOVIETS SEEKING OPPOR-
TUNITY TO SCORE CHEAP PROPAGANDA POINTS. MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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